

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 9, 2021

County Board Room 101, 126 Cherry St, Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Robert Kopisch, County Board

Chairperson. Invocation: Pastor Larry Tenut.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Waldemar Madsen, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Instructions were given to any members of the public attending electronically.

Approval of Minutes October 12, 2021: Motion Madsen/Houdek to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 minute as presented. After comments from Mrs. Strobl, motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Mr. Kopisch provided information regarding abstaining. 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Performance Report is available in the Clerk's office. .

Public Comments: Jeff Premeau, Town of Catawba in opposition of the carbon credits program.

Public Hearings

1. Proposed 2022 Budget: Public hearing declared open at 9:12 a.m. No public comment. Public hearing declared closed at 9:14 a.m.
2. An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the County of Price, Chapter 191: Public hearing declared open at 9:14 a.m. No public comments. Hearing declared closed at 9:17 a.m.

Ordinance:

Ordinance 2021 - 01

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the County of Price, Chapter 191 Thereof,
Entitled "Board of Supervisors", to Change the Composition of the Supervisory Districts

Be it ordained by the Price County Board of Supervisors, as follows:

Section 1. Article II Supervisory Districts, Section 191-5 of Chapter 191, Board of Supervisors, of the Code of the County of Price, is hereby amended to change the Supervisory District composition as follows:

That one supervisor be elected from each district, commencing with the 2022 Spring Election.

That said thirteen supervisory districts be comprised as follows:

District

Number	Municipality	Wards	Population	District Population
1	City of Park Falls	5	568	
	City of Park Falls	6	549	1,117
2	Town of Catawba	1	247	
	Village of Catawba	1	141	
	Town of Georgetown	1	172	
	Town of Kennan	1	365	
	Village of Kennan	1	143	1,068
3	Town of Flambeau	1	488	
	Town of Lake	1	441	
4	City of Park Falls	3	170	1,099
	Town of Hill	1	366	
5	Town of Ogema	1	710	1,076
	Town of Eisenstein	2	184	
6	Town of Fifield	1	644	
	Town of Fifield	2	261	1,089
	Town of Emery	1	308	
7	Town of Hackett	1	189	
	Town of Knox	1	311	
	Town of Spirit	1	292	1,100
	City of Park Falls	1	654	
8	City of Park Falls	2	394	
	City of Park Falls	4	38	
	City of Park Falls	7	37	1,123
	Town of Elk	1	798	
9	Town of Harmony	1	220	1,018
	Town of Worcester	1	544	

	Town of Worcester	3	481	1,025
10	Town of Eisenstein	1	441	
	Town of Lake	2	665	1,106
11	City of Phillips	2	109	
	City of Phillips	3	499	
	City of Phillips	4	502	1,110
12	Town of Ogema	2	17	
	Town of Prentice	1	440	
	Village of Prentice	1	563	1,020
13	Town of Elk	2	162	
	City of Phillips	1	423	
	Town of Worcester	2	518	1,103
	Total County Population 2020 census			14,054

All ordinances in conflict with, or contrary to the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 2. Effective date.

This ordinance shall be effective as of November 15, 2021. The County Board Chair shall file a certified copy of the Price County Redistricting Plan with the Secretary of State.

Submitted by the Price County Redistricting Committee: s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Jean Gottwald. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of November 2021. s/Robert Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For:13, Against: 0.

Motion Spacek/Madsen to consider ordinance for adoption. Roll call vote on ordinance adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolutions:

Resolution 47-21

2021 Property Tax Levy

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled in Annual Session, this 9th day of November 2021, that the budget prepared by the Executive Committee, which has been approved by action of the Price County Board of Supervisors, be and hereby levied against the tax districts in Price County, and that the County Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to appropriate the levy to each tax district as provided by law: 2021 Property Tax Levy, payable in 2022: \$10,980,439.

Submitted by: s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair, Price County Board of Supervisors. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of November 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 1.

Motion Wartgow/Palecek to approve the resolution with a dollar amount of \$10,980,439. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Erickson, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Ernst. Motion carried.

Resolution 48-21

Authorize the Issuance of Tax Deed for 2018

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of Price County has issued 2018 tax certificates on properties for nonpayment of real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owners or claimants of the parcels have not satisfied redemption of said tax certificates and that said parcels continue to remain unredeemed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors that the County Clerk be and is hereby ordered to issue tax deed against the properties listed as attached on the unredeemed tax certificates for 2018 and also those prior years pursuant to §75.14 Wisconsin Statutes, excepting that no tax deed will be taken for any property with visible evidence of contamination or determined to not be in the best interest of the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee will have final authority in deciding if said tax deed properties are processed as tax deed pursuant to §75.14 Wisconsin Statutes or processed as in rem pursuant to §75.521 Wisconsin Statutes.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of November 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0.

Motion Houdek/Madsen to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 49-21

Create Part-time Position: Additional Public Health Nurse

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to support local health departments to meet their needs related to response from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provides resources to meet and address the emergent public health needs, including measures to counter the spread of COVID-19, provisions of care to those impacted by the virus and programs or services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control Public Health Workforce Development Strategies, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, expect that local public health agencies will need to establish, expand, train and sustain the local public health workforce to support jurisdictional COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives, including school based programs by using available funds to recruit, hire and train personnel to address projected jurisdictional COVID-19 response needs over the performance period, including hiring personnel to build capacity to address local public health priorities deriving from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, various sources, specific to local public health, are available to provide funding for improving the workforce for local public health departments with approximately \$395,000 awarded to Price County covering the period from March 2021 through December 2024; providing for an additional public health nurse in the Health and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, this position will help with COVID response and other duties that improve and supplement programs that have been put on hold during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, at their November 3, 2021 meeting, the Health and Human Services Board approved creation of a new part-time Public Health Nurse position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of an additional regular part-time Public Health Nurse position in the Health and Human Services Department with a pay scale position of Grade H, with the understanding that the position will only remain active as long as outside funding is provided.

Fiscal impact: None

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator :s/Nicholas Trimner Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of November 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0.

Motion Houdek/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 50-21

Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement

County Forest Road 700 (Town of Harmony)

WHEREAS, the functional/jurisdictional relationship of the proposed county forest and local road systems have been co-operatively reviewed by all entities; and

WHEREAS, changes in the jurisdiction of the designated road system in the Township of Harmony have been agreed to by the township and Price County; and

WHEREAS, consistent with those agreed to changes, the Township of Harmony has passed a resolution dated the 10th day of August 2021 approving the specific jurisdictional transfer described herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Price County agrees to transfer maintenance, jurisdiction and ownership of underlying right-of-way for .65 mile of County Forest Road 700 (East Georgetown Fire Lane) as shown on the attached map; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date of jurisdictional transfer of road and right-of-way is upon the approval by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee. s/Jeff Hallstrand, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jordan Spacek; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of November 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0.

Motion Strobl/Spacek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13):

Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution - Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting (23-21): Not ready for consideration.

Appointments:

1. Health and Human Services Board – three-year term to expire 12/31/2024 (Dennis Wartgow, Mark Kyle, Gerald Swenson): Motion Houdek/Hallstrand to approve the appointments.
2. Ogema Library Board – three-year term to expires 12/31/2024: Town of Ogema is making the appointment.
3. Veterans Service Commission – three-year term to expires 12/31/2024 (Richard Lapp, Douglas Moquin): Motion Houdek/Spacek to approve the appointments.
4. County Election Board of Canvass – two-year term expires 12/31/23 (Sandra Behling, Shirley Smith): Motion Erickson/Barkstrom to approve the appointments.

Miscellaneous:

1. Forestry and Parks – 2022 Annual Work Plan: Motion Ernst/Hallstrand to approve the plan as presented. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole at 9:34 a.m.

1. County Administrator Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2021 Financial Summary Report as of 10/31/21: Reviewed current status. Weimers Dam project is in process. Air conditioning system in the Normal Building was an unexpected cost. Health & Human Services Department is on budget. Animal Control revenue budget has been met. Cash on hand is reflecting ARPA funds and loan advancements received. Sales tax is doing well. Stumpage revenue is on schedule.
 - b. American Recovery Plan Act update: Review of funds received and project spending. Items under \$25,000 can be approved by the County Administrator. Other projects will come to the County Board for approval. Explained how loss of revenue calculation worked.
 - c. Future of Fairgrounds Property: Advertised for any parties interested in purchase of the property. Options to review: sell property; retain ownership and make improvements; retain ownership at status quo.
2. Board Chair Report – Robert Kopisch
 - a. COVID-19 pandemic update: Price County continues to be in the very high case level status.
 - b. Develop a Forest Carbon Offset Project for County Owned Land: Taylor Fritsch, Environmental Attorney from Michael Best and Josh Strauss from BlueSource joined the meeting.
Public comment reopened. Joe Fox from Town of Worcester in opposition. No other comments received.
Discussed process. Has been discussed at various committee and Board meetings. Nick has worked with legal counsel and BlueSource rep to bring the discussion forward. Mr. Strauss explained that the County's forest harvests will not change. Joe Grapa explained the County's harvesting procedure with the State of Wisconsin and the schedule that maintains the forest's sustainability. Standard is based on the past 10 years' harvests. Marketability could affect the timber sale process, but not the integrity of the county's harvesting schedule. 72,000 of productive acres would be in the program.
 - i. Closed Session: Announcement and motion Wartgow/Barkstrom to adjourn to closed session at 11:02 a.m. pursuant to the exemption in Wis. State Statute 19.85 (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. For the purpose of:
 - (i) Negotiate Potential Contract with Bluesource for Forest Carbon Offset Project Development
 - (ii) Motion to Return to Open Session
 - ii. Take Action, as needed, on closed session items: None.

Roll call vote: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Hintz. Motion carried.

Motion Madsen/Houdek to return to open session at 11:35 a.m. Roll call vote: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow.

No (0). Motion carried.

Motion Wartgow/Ernst to direct the County Administrator to move forward with negotiations with BlueSource and present a contract for consideration at a future County Board meeting. Roll call vote: Yes

(9): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Palecek, Wartgow. No (4): Hintz, Madsen, Spacek, Strobl. Motion carried.

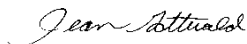
Public Information Meeting tentatively planned for December 2, 2021 at 6pm.

- c. Spring Election: Packets for re-election handed out. Election Day April 5th. Noncandidacy deadline is December 24th.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Chose Security Health for 2022 health insurance. Employee meetings being held for open enrollment.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Fairgrounds shut down. Fall maintenance projects. New Normal Building chiller operational. One bid for Normal Building window replacements. Meeting on November 16th at 4pm to include discussion on the Fairgrounds property. Had a successful garage sale.
 - c. Executive – Kopisch: Denied a request for waiver of property tax interest and penalty. Responded to Habitat for Humanity funding request. PFACDC denied proposal from the County to be more involved in the hope of spreading their services county-wide. Other municipalities that were approached for funding were denied. Denied request to participate in the Discover Mediaworks campaign.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Three active timber sales. Fall timber sales set up. Water off at campgrounds. Shooting range project moving forward. \$1,549,000 in stumpage revenue.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Flu and COVID booster clinics being held. Unit quarterly reports. Discussed changing the usual meeting date. No December meeting. Information from the ADRC-N meeting. Full-time dementia care position approved for Price and Iron Counties. Accepted bid for senior meals vendor and approved the 2022 recommendation donations. Met with UW-Extension to discuss joint programming. Continue to recruit for social worker and dental hygienist.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Finished summer construction projects. Fall and winter maintenance projects and prepping for 2022 construction projects. Dam water levels at winter draw down. Weimers Dam gate project proceeding. Airport readying for winter maintenance.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Have not met since last Board meeting. Working on a stronger position on Cervid farms.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Hintz: Have not met. Two new lieutenants hired. Expect to be back to full staff with next round of hiring.

Date of Next Meeting: December 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF PRICE. I, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk in and for Price County do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct record of all the proceedings held by and before the Price County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on November 9, 2021 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk